

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

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FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4027

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

CINCWANT NORFOLK VA

CINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA SEVEN)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT PINS MILI AO

SUBJECT: POLITICAL-MILITARY ROUNDUP AUGUST 20 - LUANDA

1. THE PORTUGUESE REPORTED HEAVY FIRING ON THE CAXITO
FRON DURING AUGUST 18. MPLA CLAIMS IT WENT ON THE OFFENSIVE
AND DROVE FNLA FORCES BACK MANY KILOMETERS.

2. THE BATTLE FOR LOBITO APPEARS TO BE IN
RECESS AWAITING A REPORTED ATTEMPT BY FNLA-UNITA
TO SEND REINFORCEMENTS WEST FROM NOVA LISBOA TO LOBITO.
MPLA HAS THE UPPER HAND AND SAYS IT HAS ALREADY
DEFEATED A CONTINGENT OF REINFORCEMENTS. THREE
THOUSAND REFUGEES ARE REPORTED AT THE PORTUGUESE

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GARRISON IN LOBITO.

3. A COLUMN OF PORTUGUESE TROOPS AND CIVILIANS TRAVELLING FROM LUSO TO NOVA ISBOA WAS ATTACKED BY ELEMENTS OF UNITA/FNLA, SUBJECTED TO ABUSE AND ROBBED. THE INCIDENT WAS SO SERIOUS THAT THE PORTUGUESE SENT TWO GENERAL OFFICERS TO NOVA LISBOA TO DISCUSS IT WITH UNITA OFFICIALS. ACCORDING TO THE PORTUGUESE MILITARY, FNLA HAS RETAKEN LUCALA. THE MPLA SAID THAT IT DROVE A FORCE OF FNLA TROOPS BACK FROM SALAZAR WND THAT MPLA ALSO DEFEATED A COMBINED UNITA-FNLA FORCE IN CALULO.

4. COMMUNICATIONS/FUEL/FOOD. TELEX AND PHONE LINKS WITH THE SOUTH ARE STILL OUT. POSTAL WORKERS ARE NOT PERMITTING CALLS TO SOUTH AFRICA. THE MOBIL TANKER HA NOT ARRIVED BUT IS NOW DUE ON AUGUST 21. THE PORT IS TODAY ON A "ONE-DAY" STRIKE BECAUSE PORTUGUESE TROOPS PULLED GUNS ON A GROUP OF WORKERS ON AUGUST 19. FOOD STOCKS ARE DROPPING BUT HAVE NOT YET REACHED A CRITICAL POINT. THE REFINERY IS PREPARING TO GO BACK INTO PRODUCTION WITHIN THE NEXT DAY OR TWO.

5. THE PRESS OF AUGUST 20 REPORTS THAT ON AUGUST 19 UNITA PRESIDENTIAL COUNCIL MEMBER JOSE N'DELE AND POSSIBLY OTHER OFFICIALS OF UNITA MET IN LUANDA WITH UNIDENTIFIED ELEMENTS OF THE MPLA, PRESUMABLY WITH THE AIM OF REACHING AGREEMENT ON A CEASEFIRE AND FINDING SOME MEANS TO COOPERATE. THE MEETING TOOK PLACE ON HHE EVE OF THE UNITA GENERAL ASSEMBLY THAT IS TO TAKE PLACE IN SILVA PORTO AND WHICH WILL DECIDE UNITA'S POLICY AND COURSES OF ACTION IN THE FACE OF THE CHAOS THAT IS SWEEPING THE COUNTRY.

6. "POPULAR DEFENSE COMMITTEES" HAVE BEEN CREATED IN LUANDA. ACCORDING TO A MPLA GENERAL STAFF COMMUNIQUE THEY ARE "PARAMILITARY WORKERS GROUPS" CONTROLLED BY FAPLA (MPLA MILITARY ARM) AND DEDICATED TO THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ACHIEVEMENT OF MPLA'S GOALS. ALL ARMED PERSONS NOT BELONGING TO EITHER FAPLA OR THE COMMITTEES ARE TO BE CONSIDERED BANDITS.

7. TAKEOVERS. THE INSURANCE COMPANIES HAVE GONE THE WAY OF THE BANKS. MOREOVER, THE TAKEOVER DECREE ALLOWS THE "REQUISITION OF MEANS, TECHNICAL AND HUMAN" (I.E. PERSONNEL) TO RUN THE COMPANIES.

IN VIEW OF THE DECREE LANGUAGE AND THE ARREST
OF A U.S. CITIZEN BANK MANAGER AUGUST 19, IT IS
DOUBTFUL KEY MANAGERIAL PERSONNEL WILL BE
ALLOWED TO LIAVE ANGOLA.
KILLORAN

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